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second-class matter.

**THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CON-
VENTION.**

A National Convention of the Republican party
will meet at Chicago, Wednesday, the 24 day
of June next, for the nomination of candidates to
be supported for President and Vice President at
the next election.

Republicans, and all who will co-operate with
them in supporting the nominee of the party, are
invited to choose two delegates from each
Congressional District, four at large from each
State, two from each Territory, and two from
the District of Columbia, to represent them in
the Convention.

J. D. CAMERON, Chairman.
THOMAS B. KEOGH, Secretary.

Garcelon's check is attributed to the
mumps.

The democratizers in Congress are wait-
ing for something to turn up. They are
a doleful set of waiters.

Even Harper's Weekly on in one of its
editorial pages, speaks of General "John"
A. Garfield and then likens him unto
Gladstone.

The Hayden murder case has been given
to the jury, and a verdict was expected to-
day. The sentiment prevails that the
jury will either acquit or disagree.

Garcelon has finished his course and now
he can go to meet Cronin and Tweed.
Like them he tried to be the meanest man
living, and did not fail in his attempt.

The Democratic party is well supplied
with undertakers. They are bound to lay
out the party this year, and dig the grave
so deep that there can be no resurrection.

beymour, Bayard, and Davis continue to
talk about the Presidential question. It is
noticeable that Tilden keeps quiet. The
barrel is his, and so will be the Conven-
tion.

Smith, the Fusionist of Maine, who re-
ceived 35,000 less votes than the Republi-
can candidate for Governor last fall, is
proclaimed Governor by the Fusionists.
How would this take in Wisconsin?

The people of Maine should stop being
fooled by the present Constitution. If
they don't put some common sense into
it regarding the election of State officers,
they should be wiped out like Garcelon.

The negro exodus from the South is still
on the increase, and it is stated as a fact
that not less than 2,500 negroes will leave
North Carolina for Indiana and other
parts of the West in the course of a week.

The Maine Supreme Court has laid
down heavily on the Fusion Legislature.
It rebukes the usurpers, and tells them
that they are striking a death-blow at civil
liberty and self-government by attempt-
ing to disregard all law.

If it were not for Joe Rankin it would
be lonesome for the Democrats in the Wis-
consin Senate. There are only eight al-
lotted, against twenty-five Republicans. Joe
is a member of the double quartet, and does
more than his share in making music for
the boys.

Judge Briley, of the Madison Municipal
Court, has discharged Bacon, the justice of
the peace, who, it is said, contributed to
the death of old John Ralf, by sentencing
him to jail when he was at death's door.
His conduct was outrageously inhuman, to
say the least.

One of the old pioneers of Rock county,
who came here when inhabitants were
few and wolves plenty, and who was in
the Second Convention which adopted the
State Constitution, and who had almost
past out of memory, has been heard from
at last—Paul Randall. Recently Mr.
A. M. Carter, of Johnston, who was also
in the Constitutional Convention, received
a letter from him dated
at Salem, Oregon. In this
letter he gives a sketch of his pioneer life,
and also an interesting account of his
trip to the Pacific slope. He
left Janesville on the first day of April,
1852, and in a wagon traveled all the way
to Oregon, a trip which occupied six
months and eleven days. During the first
few years Mr. Randall lived in Oregon he
passed through many trials and tribula-
tions, "hard to be borne," but through
them all he has come out manfully and
successfully. He is now 77 years old, has
been married twice, has raised a large fam-
ily, and the sons and daughters are com-
fortably situated, and Mr. Randall is in a
condition to take peace and comfort for
the remainder of his days.

Railway Commissioner Turner has sent
us advance sheets of his report for the past
year. There are a great many facts and
figures in it which can not fail to be inter-
esting. The total number of miles of road
in the State is 2,896. The greatest number
of miles built in any one year, was in 1871,
when the number reached 417. In 1873,
the number was not far behind that of
1871, being 405. The cost of all the roads
in the state is placed at 202 millions of dol-
lars, and the cost of the roads per mile is
put at \$44.718. The present debt of the
roads aggregates 103 millions of
dollars or \$32 per mile. The total
earnings for the year ending September 30,
1879, was \$26,965,134, and the operating
expenses, including interest and dividends,
were \$24,271,023, leaving a surplus of nearly
three millions of dollars. The total
number of passengers carried in this State
during the year past was 5,386,188, and out-
of this vast number, it must be to the
honor of the railway companies said, that
only two were killed, and one of these by
his own carelessness. Railway management
is becoming so perfect, especially in this
State, that it can be said it is safer to travel
than to stay at home, and this is actually
true.

THE JAMESVILLE GAZETTE.

VOLUME 23

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1880.

NUMBER 266

BIENNIAL SESSIONS.

**Do they Meet the Needs of the Peo-
ple?—The Question of their Econo-
my—What Six Governors Say on
Subject—Biennial Sessions Strenu-
ously Adversed—Facts for the Wisconsin
Legislature to Consider.**

The Gazette is not recklessly enthusiastic
upon the subject of Biennial Sessions of
the Legislature. It has no hobby of that
kind which it rides. During the past two
years it has supported the Biennial Ses-
sion measure only so far as the submission
of the question to the people is concerned.
We have desired that the people of Wis-
consin shall have an opportunity to vote
upon the question as to whether, there shall
be annual or biennial sessions of our Leg-
islature. We believe it is a practical re-
form measure, one which the people, or
at least a very large majority of them,
would support, and therefore we have at
various times, urged the adoption of the
resolutions regarding Biennial Sessions. In
Wisconsin, these sessions may prove a
humbug for all we know. Some of the
prominent men at Madison, who naturally
would favor annual sessions, and who
contributed to the defeat
of the resolution of last
winter, say that Biennial Sessions are a
fraud, that they cheat the people, and that
those states that have adopted Biennial
Sessions, are disgusted with them and
that there is a growing desire to return to
annual sessions. This was one of the
arguments the opponents of Biennial Ses-
sions have made ever since the question
has come up for discussion in Wisconsin.
For the purpose of obtaining some facts
regarding the comparative economy of
the two systems of holding legisla-
tive sessions from States which have had
experience and which now have Biennial
Sessions, and to ascertain whether or not
there was a desire on the part of the peo-
ple to return to annual sessions, the
editor of the Gazette addressed a letter to
His Excellency Governor Pillsbury, of
Minnesota, in which three questions were
asked:

1. Do you regard Biennial Sessions in
your State better adapted to the needs of
the people, than annual sessions?

2. Do you consider them more econo-
mical than annual sessions?

3. Is there any desire on the part of
the people of your State, or among those best
informed on State affairs, to change to an-
nual sessions?

Copies of this letter were forward-
ed to Governor Gear, of Iowa, Gov-
ernor Cullom, of Illinois, Governor
Phelps, of Missouri, Governor Crosswell,
of Michigan, and Governor Williams, of
Indiana.

Governor Pillsbury answered as follows:
STATE OF MINNESOTA.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
ST. PAUL, Jan. 5, 1880.

Mr. N. Smith, Janesville, Wis.:
DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your favor of the
1st instant, wishing for information regarding
the policy of holding biennial in place of annual
sessions, of the Legislature of our State. In re-
ply to your first interrogatory, I would say that I
consider biennial sessions of the Legislature in
every respect much better adapted to the needs
of the people than annual sessions.

To your second question my answer is yes, em-
phatically. The saving to our State this year in
money will amount to more than one hundred
and thirty thousand dollars, to say nothing of
the indirect saving in special legislation and in
unnecessary amendments to untried general
laws.

To your third question, I answer that I can not
learn of the least desire on the part of the people
of this State to return to annual sessions. On
the contrary, I believe that there was such a propo-
sition submitted to the people, it would be over-
whelmingly defeated. There are many other rea-
sons in favor of biennial sessions.

Very respectfully,
J. S. PILLSBURY,
Governor.

It has been said by the opponents of Bi-
ennial Sessions that the "system in Illinois
was a farce and cost the State more than
annual sessions would. Against these
statements we place Governor Cullom's
letter:

STATE OF ILLINOIS.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 3, 1880.

DEAR SIR:—In answer to your favor of the 1st
instant, I can say—

1. I believe that biennial sessions of the State
Legislature fully answer the needs of the people
in this State.

2. They are more economical than annual ses-
sions.

3. There is no desire or purpose to adopt an-
nual sessions in this State. Such a measure
would encounter universal opposition.

Respectfully,
S. M. CULLOM,
Governor.

From Iowa, there comes this enthusias-
tic letter from Governor Gear, whose long
residence in that State entitles him to be
heard:

STATE OF IOWA.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
DES MOINES, Jan. 3, 1880.

SIR:—
Yours of the 1st instant is at hand, and in ac-
cordance with your request, please find below
reply to your questions.

In the territorial days of Iowa, she had annual
sessions of the General Assembly. At the time
of her admission she put a clause in her organic
law, making the sessions of her General Assem-
bly biennial.

In answer to your first question, as to whether
I consider "Biennial Sessions adapted to the
wants of our people," I reply that by my ob-
servation and legislative experience, I think
them decidedly so.

2d. Do I consider "Biennial Sessions more
economical?" They are in my opinion more
economical beyond a question.

3d. "Has there been any general desire on the
part of the people to adopt annual sessions?" I
have never heard the question discussed or al-
luded to during my residence in the State, which
has been for forty years, and I think, if the
question of annual sessions was submitted to our
people, that it would not receive an affirmative
vote of five per cent.

Yours truly,
JNO. H. GEAR,
Governor.

Michigan has been quoted as being dis-
satisfied with Biennial Sessions and that
point we offer the following letter from
Governor Crosswell:

STATE OF MICHIGAN.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
LANSING, Jan. 5, 1880.

Mr. N. Smith, Janesville, Wis.:
DEAR SIR:—I have just received your favor
of the 1st instant, in which you ask me the fol-
lowing questions:

First, "Do you consider biennial sessions of the
Legislature in your State better adapted to the
needs of the people?"

Answer, I do. There is less instability of laws
under this system. When we had annual sessions
the people had hardly time to become acquainted
with enactments of the Legislature before they
were changed or repealed. If there is great need
of important legislation, the Governor, in the
two years interval between the regular sessions,
has power to convene the Legislature for the
consideration of such necessary measures.

Second, "Do you regard biennial sessions more
economical than annual sessions?"

Yes, they have proved so in this State. The
saving in expense has been large and the State
Government has been well conducted as it
could have been with annual sessions.

Third, "Is there any desire among the people,
or those best informed on State affairs, to adopt
annual sessions?"

I think not. The question of a return to an-
nual sessions was submitted to the people of the
State, April 6, 1878, and voted down by a majority
of 75,832.

Yours very truly,
CHARLES M. CROSSWELL,
Governor.

Governor Phelps, of Missouri, joins in the
chorus for Biennial Sessions:

STATE OF MISSOURI.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
CITY OF JEFFERSON, Jan. 5, 1880.

Mr. N. Smith, Janesville, Wis.:
SIR:—I have just received your favor of the 1st
instant, in which you ask me the following ques-
tions:

1st. The Constitution of this State, of 1820, pro-
vided for biennial sessions of the Legislature, and
until 1852 we seldom had an adjourned or called
session. From 1852 to 1874 the Legislature was in
session nearly every year by reason of adjourned
sessions or sessions called by the Governor. Be-
cause of this, the people of this State, in my opin-
ion, are best suited to the wants of our people.
Since 1874 we have had only biennial sessions
of the Legislature.

2d and 3d. Biennial, instead of annual, sessions
are the most economical. There is no general
desire of the people to adopt annual sessions.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN S. PILLSBURY,
Governor.

The Governor of Indiana, who is known
all over the country as Blue Jeans Wil-
liams, has put himself on record as a
champion for Biennial Sessions. His let-
ter is as follows:

THE STATE OF INDIANA.
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.
INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 12, 1880.

To N. Smith, Editor of the Gazette, Janesville,
Wis.:
SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 1st, I have
the honor to say that my views upon the question
asked were requested by a correspondent of the
Boston Herald and substantially published in
that paper last October. The enclosed extract is
from the Indianapolis Journal of October 16, 1879,
and is reasonably accurate.

Respectfully,
JAMES D. WILLIAMS,
Governor.

The interview referred to by Governor
Williams, and which he kindly enclosed in
the letter, is as follows:

"I am quite strongly of opinion that it is
to the advantage of the people not to have
Legislature meeting more than once in
two years. You ask me why I adopt this
view. I will tell you. It prevents change-
ing the law being made before legislation
has had a fair trial. It insures that the
State shall have, at least, eighteen months
without possible change in the law. For
six months after the Legislature has been
in session everything is in confusion. A
great many acts are passed with which we
all an emergency clause, by virtue of
which they come into effect immediately
and are signed, and long before they have
been officially printed. Those who have
not this emergency clause are not opera-
tive until the laws have been printed and
circulated in the various counties. But all
this time lawyers and the general public
are constantly in doubt as to what change
has been made. If the Legislature met
every year, this would be still worse, but
as it is we get at least eighteen months of
rest between the sessions, which gives an
opportunity of testing the advantages of
the laws passed. I am quite certain that
all necessary legislation can be got through
in a sixty-day session once every two years,
provided the members attend strictly to
business. The Legislature of this State
has had biennial sessions since the adoption
of the present constitution in 1852. Pre-
vious to that time it met annually. I con-
sider the present plan far the best, and it is
certainly the cheapest. While I do not see
now the public interests can suffer by it in
any way whatever. My opinion is based
upon a legislative experience of nineteen
years—twelve years in the Senate and
seven in the lower house. I was first
elected a member of the Assembly in
1843."

In commenting on this interview the
Boston Herald says: "Whenever Blue
Jeans Williams of Indiana, can give his
emphatic approval to biennial sessions,
the average Butlerite of Massachusetts
ought to be silenced. No more sensible
or compact presentation of the argument
for biennial sessions has ever been made
than in our correspondent's interview with
our Governor of Indiana."

BURGLAR'S TOOLS.
MILWAUKEE, Jan. 16.—The Milwaukee
police have made what appears to be an
important capture. For several days they
have had information that kits of burglars'
and safe-blovers' tools were arriving not
only in the Cream city, but in other towns
throughout the State, and suspecting that
an extensive raid on Wisconsin banks was
contemplated, all suspicious packages were
watched with great vigilance. This cul-
minated yesterday in the seizure of a set of
massive instruments, and the arrest of one
of the men to whom they were supposed to
belong. At the same time detectives were
dispatched to the smaller cities similarly
informed, where it is expected that several
other arrests will be made. The tools and
men are supposed to have come from Chi-
cago.

INADEQUATE.
MADISON, Jan. 16.—In the criminal court
to-day, Justice Bacon and Constable M. J.
Ryan and E. D. Ryan, of Waukesha,
charged with manslaughter, were dis-
charged. It will be remembered that John
Bali, aged 70, was arrested for vagrancy
by the constables and sentenced by
Bacon to the county jail, al-
though he had money in his pocket. The
old man was in a dying condition at the
time, but was driven fifteen miles in an
open wagon to this city on a bitter cold
day. He died within ten minutes after
being put in jail. The case, which was on
trial several days, caused much indignation.
Judge Bailey said there was no law to
condemn the accused to act the part of God
Samaritan, and no evidence to show willful
corruption.

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**Important Capture of Burglar
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Other Interesting Items of News.

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TO-DAY IN MAINE.

FROM MADISON.

MAINE SUPREME COURT.

**IT SUSTAINS THE REPUBLICANS IN THE
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Delivered by an Unanimous Bench**

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FASHIONABLE FANCIES.

Fur borders are much used in cloths suits.
Silk stockings have open work and much
embroidery on the instep.

Knitted Jersey jackets, fitting like a
glove, are among the latest novelties in
ladies' wear.

The crowns of small boys' old hats, when
they have any crowns left, may be utilized
as frames for turbans for their little sisters.

Purple is fashionable in all shades, from
dark violet and plum to palest lilac. Delic-
ate shades of mauve are shown, which
suggest raspberry cream, and are very ef-
fective by gas light.

Shawl-shaped fichus of

